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# TOWNSEND'S LIBRARY

OF

## NATIONAL, STATE, AND INDIVIDUAL RECORDS,

1860-1870.

INCLUDING ALL ATTAINABLE INFORMATION UP TO THE PRESENT TIME (1888), CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS AND EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THAT DECADE.

28 Years of Labor, and an Expenditure of \$25,000, by a Private Citizen, on a Work of National Importance.

50TH CONGRESS,  
1ST SESSION, {

S. 1,700.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 26, 1888,

Mr. HAWLEY introduced the following bill, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Library:

### A BILL

Authorizing the Librarian of Congress to purchase "Townsend's Library of National, State, and Individual Records, comprising a collection of Historical Records concerning the Origin, Progress, and Consequences of the late Civil War."

*Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,*

That the Librarian of Congress be and he is hereby authorized and directed to purchase "Townsend's Library of National, State, and Individual Records, comprising a collection of Historical Records concerning the Origin, Progress, and Consequences of the late Civil War," at a price not exceeding one thousand dollars, which amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

"There is not an hour, during a Session of Congress, when some fact, to confirm history or refute misrepresentation, is not found necessary, and the difficulty of obtaining a place to which immediate and reliable reference can be had, is constantly felt. Mr. Townsend has supplied this important desideratum."—*Washington Chronicle*.





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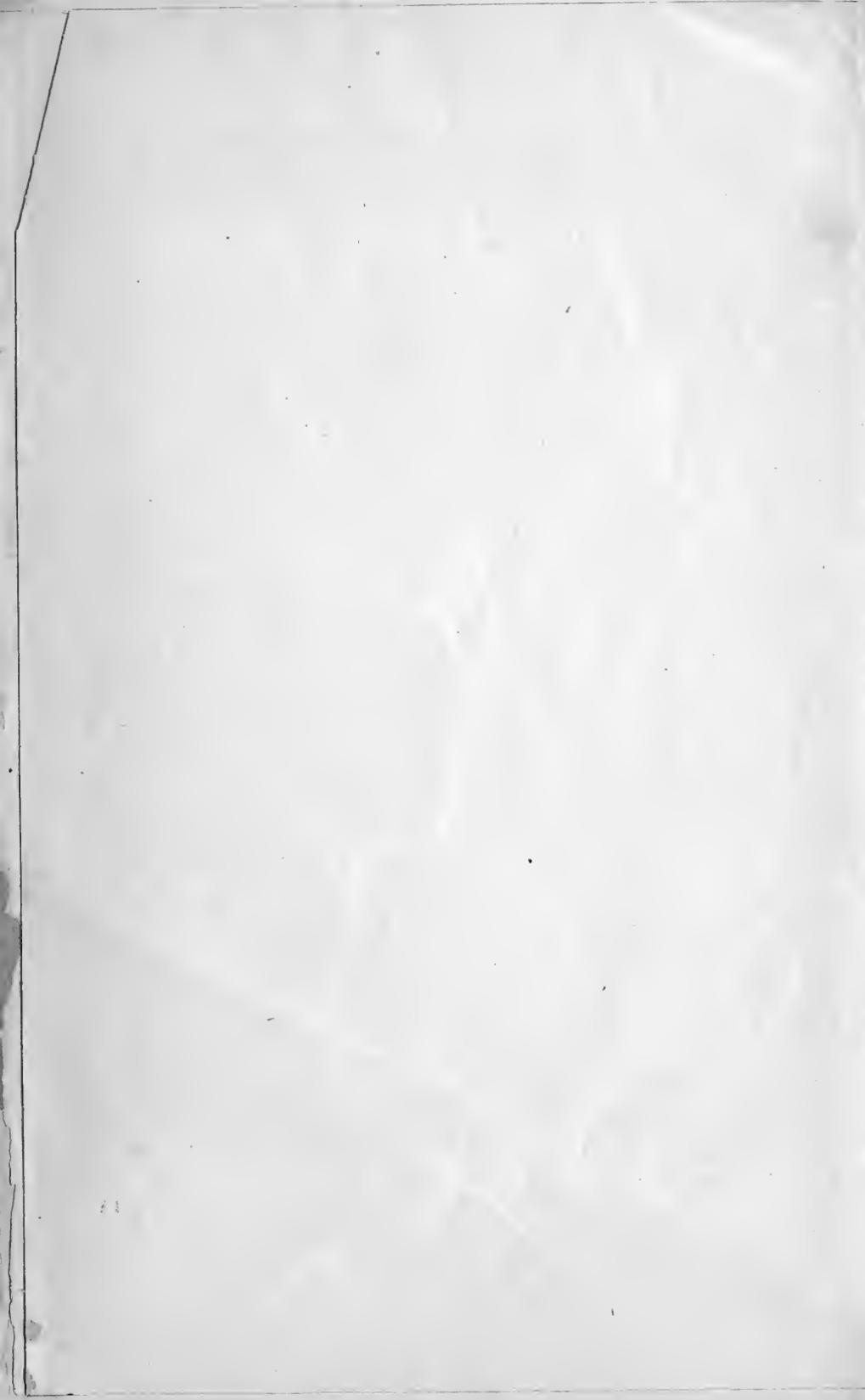
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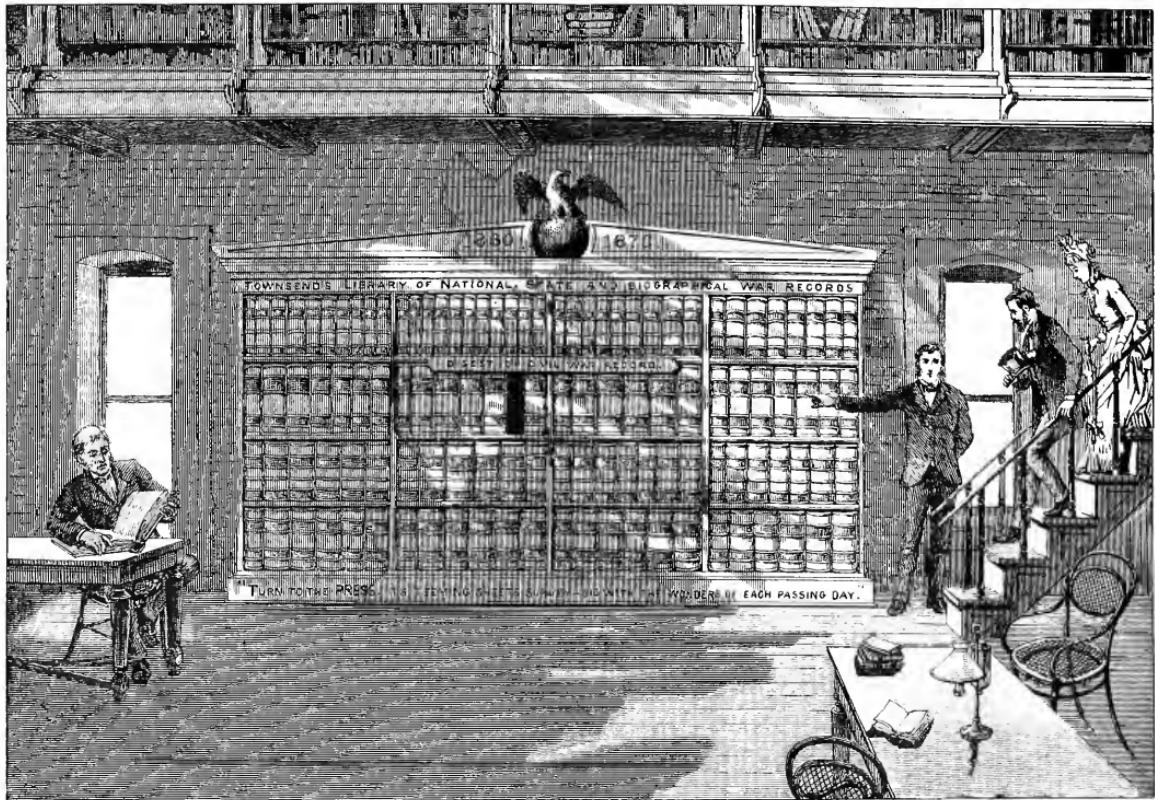












JOURNALISTIC RECORD COMPRIMES ABOUT ONE HUNDRED VOLUMES, CONTAINING SIXTY THOUSAND PAGES, OR TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND COLUMNS, EQUAL TO TWICE THAT NUMBER OF ORDINARY SIZE BOOK COLUMNS.  
THE DIGEST, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE IN ABOUT THIRTY VOLUMES, CONTAINING THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND PAGES OF MANUSCRIPT, EACH VOLUME THE SIZE OF THE LARGEST BANK LEDGERS.  
THE INDEX TO THE DIGEST, WHICH IS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE WORK, IS IN ONE VOLUME.



J. S. Townsend

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New York:

STYLES & CASH, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 77 EIGHTH AVENUE.

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# TOWNSEND'S LIBRARY

OF

## National, State and Individual Records.

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### SOME OPINIONS.

*The Comte de Paris.*—"It is a work of the greatest value, but seems beyond the strength of a single man in the limits of a single life."

*General Grant.*—"I heartily endorse the sentiments expressed by the Comte de Paris, in his letter of July 27, 1883."

*Governor Horatio Seymour.*—"I look upon the work as a miracle of labor, arrangement, and execution. It is not only necessary to the historian, but will be of great value to our government in the event of war or hostile complications with other nations."

*Dr. Cogswell, the Organizer and First Superintendent of the Astor Library.*—"As a chronological and synchronous record of the events, it is more minute, and more authentic than could be formed in any other way ; and as documentary material for the historian of those events, it is absolutely indispensable. Its voluminousness might render it inconvenient in use, but for its *perfectly systematic arrangement*, which, *with its minute and complete index*, **OBVIA TE ALL OBJECTIONS** on that score, and **RENDER THE WORK AS EASY TO BE CONSULTED AS IF IT WERE COMPRISED IN A SINGLE VOLUME**. The manifest labor, time and cost, which must have been bestowed upon this great work," says Dr. Cogswell, in conclusion, "warrants the inference that it will not be duplicated ; and hence it is to be hoped it will **BELONG TO THE NATION**, and be deposited where it will be most convenient of access."

*William Cullen Bryant.*—“The age has given birth to few literary undertakings that will bear comparison with this work. The compiling of a lexicon in any language is nothing to it. The forty academicians who compiled the Dictionary of the French Language had a far less laborious task.”

*Rev. Henry W. Bellows, President of the United States Sanitary Commission.*—“I do not believe that another man could be found in the country who would have devoted his life, almost entirely, to an undertaking of like importance and magnitude.” Adding : “It seems almost a providential felicity that such a curious and unique record exists.”

*Col. Duncan K. McRae, of the late Confederate Army and for some time Agent for the Confederate Government in Europe.*—“I regard Mr. Townsend’s work as one of wonderful value. It really contains a better source of supply for a history of the war than simply the official records, for he has many (the minutest often of those), and in addition his contemporaneous journalistic narrative, data and statistics, worked up with such elaborate and systematic method and detail, affords every facility for accurate history. Its fairness, impartiality and completeness cannot be too highly extolled.”

*Hon. John A. Dix.*—“I have watched it in its progress with great interest, and a high appreciation of its great value. Fifty years from this time it will, undoubtedly, have a value which cannot be estimated—as indeed it has now.”

*Rev. S. Irenaeus Prime, Editor of the New York Observer.*—“It is, beyond all dispute, the most remarkable compilation of ancient or modern times—having no equal before or since the invention of the art of printing—and future ages will prize it as one of the chief memorials of the first century of American Independence.”

*General P. G. Beauregard.*—“After an examination of the work, General Beauregard expressed the decided opinion that it should be the property of the nation.”

*Quartermaster-General M. C. Meigs* said : “It will be impossible to duplicate Mr. Townsend’s work, and it must remain the most complete and minute journal of the events of the Great Struggle.”

*The Boston Transcript.*—“It is a wonderful work, and of great interest to all.”

*The Boston Post.*—“There is one gentleman in the United States, Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, of New York, who had the foresight to arrange a systematic plan for making a record of the successive events of the war.”

*The Northern Whig, of Belfast, Ireland.*—“The most singular and interesting record of the war has been compiled by Mr. Townsend, of New York, and the value of his compilation to a future historian is inestimable.”

*The New York Evening Post.*—“No work has been compiled which will convey to posterity a more truthful and perfect history of the late conflict.” And the editors, themselves well known in the field of historical research, emphatically said, on another occasion, that “it is a work of *peculiar* interest, in that it is the first attempt ever made to collect and arrange for the convenient use of future historians the record of great events as given from day to day, during their occurrence, in the newspaper press.”

*The New York World.*—No such mass of material for the future historian has ever been gathered by any one of whom we know or have heard. It is the richest store of current history that was ever collected, and no historian ever yet had so copious a store of material to draw upon.”

*The New York Herald.*—“It has been a labor of love with the author, for otherwise he could never have toiled on for years, as he has done, without any encouragement, except the knowledge of the benefit he was conferring on mankind. Such a work as this will lengthen the lives of the great men of the future by rendering unnecessary the immense waste of time which the want of ready and reliable information has hitherto imposed on historical writers.”

*Resolution of the New York Historical Society.*—“Resolved, that the New York Historical Society acknowledges the services rendered to the cause of history by Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, of this city, in the foresight, skill, and perseverance displayed in the preparation of his work.”

*Resolution of the Union League Club of New York.*—“It will, in the opinion of this Club, be invaluable, if not indispensable, to the future historian, of the sublime struggle through which our country has just passed.”

The following constitute the GRAND DIVISIONS of the Compendium, and all of which have their SUB-DIVISIONS:

*Buchanan's Administration (Latter Days of).*—400 statements.

*Fort Sumter.*—175 statements.

*The Trent Affair.*—200 statements.

*The Federal Government.*—Executive, State, Treasury Departments, and records of all officers connected therewith.

*Congress.*—Daily Proceedings, Speeches, Documents connected with the proceedings.

*The Confederate Government.*—Executive, State, Treasury Departments, and Records of their officers.

*Confederate Congress.*—Proceedings, Speeches, and Documents emanating therefrom.

*The Federal Army.*—Rules and Regulations, Foreign Officers, Deserters, Pensions, Prisoners of War, Strength of the Army at different periods, Military Departments, The Draft, the Army as compared with those of other nations, Records of Secretary Cameron and Secretary Stanton, West Point, the Sanitary, Christian, and Allotment Commissions, Colored Troops, Losses in the War, etc.

*The Confederate Army.*—An arrangement similar to that of the “Federal Army.”

*The Federal Navy.*

*The Confederate Navy.*

*Foreign Relations.*—See “State Department,” “Federal Government,” also “State Department,” “Confederate Government.”

*Union Generals.*—Their Records.

*Confederate Generals.*—Their Records.

*The Blockade.*

*Privateering.*

*Law and Decisions.*—International Questions, etc.

*Ecclesiastical Documents.*—Action of the Churches, North and South; Sermons, etc.

*Political Prisoners.*—Alphabetical Lists, and all statements concerning each individual.

*Heroes.*—Dead and Living.

*Historical References.*

*Regimental Records.*—Every Regiment, Union and Confederate; also, Indian Regiments. (The records of Confederate regiments include the names of all privates as well as officers who may have been captured or died while prisoners of war).

*Battles, Sieges and Skirmishes.*—The Virginia Campaign between Generals Grant and Lee occupies alone 2500 pages of “The Compendium or Digest.”

*Speeches.*—Speeches delivered throughout the world, in alphabetical order.

*Letters.*—Reports, Messages, Correspondence, Proclamations, Poems, Portraits, Maps.

## RECONSTRUCTION.

*Records of States, Cities, Towns, etc.*

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Maine.                | Minnesota.      |
| New Hampshire.        | Kansas.         |
| Vermont.              | California.     |
| Massachusetts.        | Kentucky.       |
| Connecticut.          | Missouri.       |
| Rhode Island.         | Oregon.         |
| New York.             | Nevada.         |
| New Jersey.           | Colorado.       |
| Pennsylvania.         | Virginia.       |
| Maryland.             | North Carolina. |
| Delaware.             | South Carolina. |
| District of Columbia. | Georgia.        |
| Western Virginia.     | Louisiana.      |
| Ohio.                 | Alabama.        |
| Michigan.             | Arkansas.       |
| Indiana.              | Mississippi.    |
| Illinois.             | Tennessee.      |
| Iowa.                 | Florida.        |
| Wisconsin.            | Texas.          |

*The Territories and Indians.*

*The Invasion of Mexico.*

*Canada.*—The St. Albans Raid, etc.

*Editorials* of the Press are classified, and succeed the various subjects, *i. e.*, editorials on the State of Virginia.

The following list of the Subdivisions of the State of New York will indicate the scope, plan and arrangement of the *Divisions* of all other States and subjects.

### THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The State Government—The Common Council of the City of New York—Military Documents—The Legislatures—State Conventions—Political Campaigns—Records of Public Men of New York—Public and Individual Acts of Patriotism—The Union Defence Committee—National War Committees—The Chamber of Commerce—State and Harbor Defences—The Banks, Financial Matters and the Stock Exchange—The Draft and the Riots—Plot to Burn the City of New York—General Dix and the Military Department of New York—The Union League Club—Historical Documents—The City of Brooklyn, Albany and other Cities—Editorials on the State of New York.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK.

In 1860, when the first mutterings of the impending storm gave evidence of startling events in the near future, Mr. Townsend grasped the idea of making timely notes of every occurrence in connection with the crisis. It was in anticipation of the impressive words of Major Theodore Winthrop, who, with an expiring breath, early in the contest, urged that a careful record of the occurring events of the historical epoch be preserved, that in the latter days of Buchanan's administration, and six months before the war, this stupendous work was begun. Of course, Mr. Townsend, at that early stage of the disturbances, vaguely foresaw the far-reaching possibilities of the impending conflict, else his massive collection would never have existed, for no man would have deemed it practicable or expedient to attempt the work of faithfully and unremittingly pursuing such an undertaking. From moderate beginnings it, in time, increased with the profuse material which continued to flow into the compiler's hands from all quarters, until, to do the subject ample justice and diligently follow up the compilation, the assistance of com-

petent clerks became imperative. Seizing upon every published statement as contributing to the literature of the subject at the time of publication, the compiler has devoted to the work not only the years covered by hostilities, but those which have since followed, until his labors have extended through more than a quarter of a century, with the result of having brought together the most extensive collection of data under one head ever attempted.

## THE JOURNALISTIC RECORD.

The work is in three parts—"The Journalistic Record," "The Compendium, or Digest," and the Index to the Departments of the Compendium.

The Record contains everything of National importance concerning the great conflict—not merely down to the end of battle-fields, but to the close of the equally important strife connected with the re-organization of the Union by the re-admission of the seceded States. And in this connection it is essential to remember that an immense mass of valuable information concerning men and things on all sides, North as well as South, has been attainable only since the close of the war, as it has been elicited by the discussions in congress, in legislatures, in historical societies, in obituary notices, magazine articles—such as "The Century" and "The Southern Bivouac"—and in controversies of persons engaged on both sides since the close of armed strife. No party bias has been allowed to interfere with the thorough compilation of the descriptive narratives, comments and reviews of correspondents, journalists, and public men of every political creed, whether of the North or South.

"The Journalistic Record" comprises 87 volumes, containing as much printed matter as could be placed in 1200 volumes of ordinary octavo size. As the arrangement is in four columns on each page, a curious statistician "calculated" that if the columns were arranged in a column line, they would measure nearly one hundred miles.

The preparation of these volumes of "The Record" has been, however, the least laborious portion of the work, only one-tenth of the time of the compiler having been occupied upon it, while nine-tenths have been devoted to the Compendium or Digest, which is not an index, but an analysis of, and guide to, the contents of this immense collection.

## THE COMPENDIUM OR DIGEST.

The Compendium or Digest will comprise nearly *Thirty Volumes*, or 40,000 of the largest size pages of manuscript. All elegantly bound in Russia leather.

To study the history of any particular subject by means of "The Record" alone would be impossible; therefore, in order to make this great mass of information available, the compiler decided that the *mercantile principle of keeping accounts was the true one*—to regard "The Journalistic Record," in the light a merchant's day-book, then to journalize the contents of "The Record," and from the journals to redistribute the entries to their appropriate departments, in what a merchant would term his ledger, but which the compiler calls "The Compendium or Digest." Each fact or statement in a report, or a letter, or in an editorial, is separately entered in the journal. This portion of the work requires a journal of 1,200 pages to comprise an epitome of each of the eighty-seven volumes of "The Record." These journals or waste books are removed when their entries are systematically transferred to the various departments of "The Compendium or Digest." The student or investigator has now before him in "The Digest" a statement of each subject, so that the manifold and intricate episodes of the war, its origin, progress, and consequences, can be developed instantaneously, whether the subject relates to military matters or finance, foreign relations, or State fidelity. Every general, regiment, State, and battle has its department. As a specimen of the many inquiries for information received by the compiler, it may be mentioned that, after long and unavailing efforts to obtain certain facts and documents, General N. P. Banks, in 1870, wrote from the Capitol to Mr. Townsend, in New York, to obtain (if possible) a copy of a certain letter. In acknowledging the receipt of the information he wanted, General Banks wrote that he had "never before been able to find any person who had seen" the letter. "I am very glad that you have been able to find so clear a trace of it, for I began to think, so little was it known, that I might have been mistaken myself in regard to its contents," adding, that this letter is "one of the most important publications of the war," and that "the preservation of such matters is a good evidence of the value of your collection."

A solitary example may illustrate the manifold ways in which the *Townsend Records* are referred to concerning the interests

and feelings of those who were privates in the ranks, as well as by prominent officers like Gen. Banks, and others. In a recent letter, Mr. R. R. Knapp says to Mr. Townsend: "I have to thank you for the valuable information received through your 'Compendium' regarding B. Beach Kennedy, formerly of Company E, in the Sixth U. S. Cavalry. He is suffering from a wound received in 1862, and is refused a pension because he is unable to prove that he was wounded at Slatersville. I myself, member of his company, was away on detached duty at the [redacted], and can only testify to my knowledge and belief—others of the command are scattered, no one knows where. The officer in command of the company at the time is out of service, and all letters fail to reach him. And, but for your valuable information —*even to day and date*, this man, who well deserves the pension of his government, might die for the need of it."

## THE INDEX.

The Index is in one volume. To study, for instance, the record of a general officer, the Index refers to the volumes and pages of "The Compendium," where the records of Union or Confederate Generals may be found, and in that department will be found every item of information concerning the individual, presented in the eighty-seven volumes of "The Journalistic Record," with reference in connection with each statement, to the volume and page of the same for the authority upon which the entry is recorded.

## NEWSPAPER LITERATURE.

*"Turn to the press, its teeming sheets survey,  
Big with the wonders of each passing day."*

"The newspapers," said Carlyle, "constitute the essence of all history. They are the mirrors in which events show themselves in their very form and pressure." Turn over the files of the American journals cotemporary with the Revolution of 1776, and you will see the value of the living records of the times. The Hon. John C. Hamilton, in a letter to a friend commendatory of Mr. Townsend's work, said: "In preparing my 'History of the Republic of the United States,' I was, excepting the few papers of my father's, during the period which elapsed between

28

1782 and '88, chiefly indebted to the newspapers for the materials of the work. Unless you have been engaged in a similar labor, you could not imagine the difficulty of preparing a valuable narrative from merely documentary material."

So, in after generations, the records of the transactions of our times will be equally marvellous; and it is not too much to say that the newspapers of the present age have necessitated a new style of history.

Daniel Webster said : "If you want to find genuine history, you must look for it in the newspapers and in private letters."

"Where can we find greater accuracy than in the leading newspapers?" said Edward Everett. "The errors which one paper makes is very speedily corrected by the others, and in this age of inquiry and debate, if Truth every emerges from the well in which she is said to abide, it is to clothe herself in print. The Press is the mouthpiece of the people. Their aspirations their purposes, their antipathies, are the staple of its argument day by day. There is not a wave, not a ripple in the minds of the community that it does not reflect. It occupies the position of a perpetual Congress, and the measures upon which it agrees are invariably adopted before any considerable lapse of time."











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